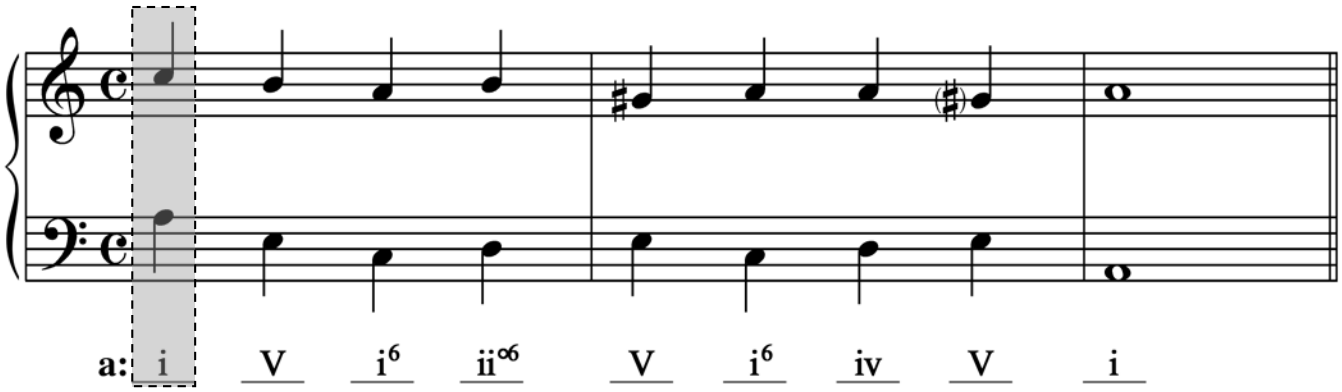
AP® MUSIC THEORY
2015 SCORING GUIDELINES

Question 3



0–24 points

I. Pitches (16 points)

- **A.** Award 1 point for each correctly notated pitch. Do not consider duration. (An accidental placed *after* the note head is not considered correct notation.)
- **B.** Award full credit for octave transpositions of the correct bass pitch. (Octave transpositions of soprano pitches are *not* allowed.)
- **C.** No enharmonic equivalents are allowed.

II. Chord Symbols (8 points)

- **A.** Award 1 point for each chord symbol correct in both Roman and Arabic numerals.
- **B.** Award ½ point for each correct Roman numeral that has incorrect or missing Arabic numerals.
- **C.** Accept the correct Roman numeral regardless of its case.

III. Rounding Fractional Scores

Half-point totals round up with one exception: A total score of 23½ rounds down to 23.

IV. Scores with Additional Meaning

- **0** This score is used for a response that represents an unsuccessful attempt to answer the question or a response that is off-topic or irrelevant.
- **—** The dash is reserved for blank responses.

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Questions 3-4

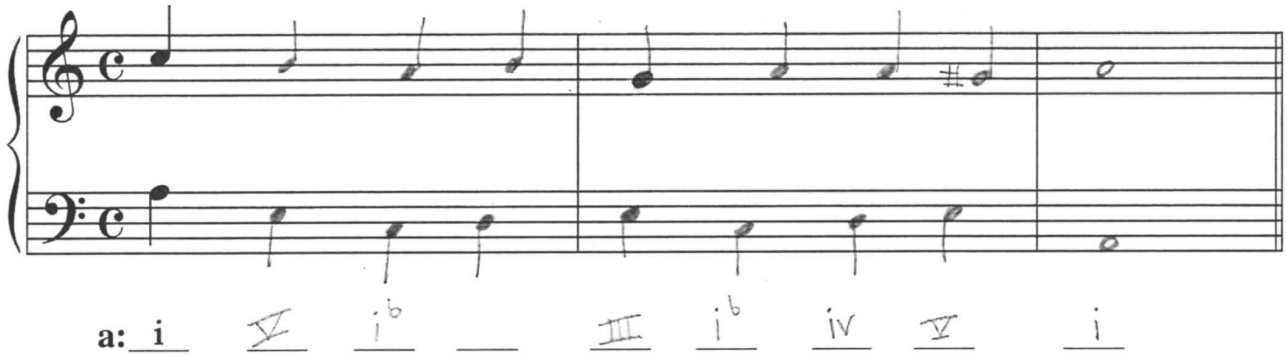
For each of these questions, you will hear a harmonic progression in four parts. In each case, the progression will be played four times. There will be a pause of 30 seconds after the first playing and a one-minute pause after each subsequent playing. For each question, please do the following.

(a) Notate only the soprano and bass voices. Do not notate the alto and tenor voices.

(b) On the blanks provided under each staff, write in the Roman and Arabic numerals that indicate the chords and their inversions.

(c) Make sure to align your notes with the blanks provided.

Question 3. Before listening to the first playing, please look at the staff below. Notice that there are nine chords in the progression; the soprano and bass notes and the Roman numeral of the first chord are given.

Now listen to the progression for the first time and begin working.

The progression for **Question 3** will now be played a second time.

The progression for **Question 3** will now be played a third time.

The progression for **Question 3** will now be played a final time.

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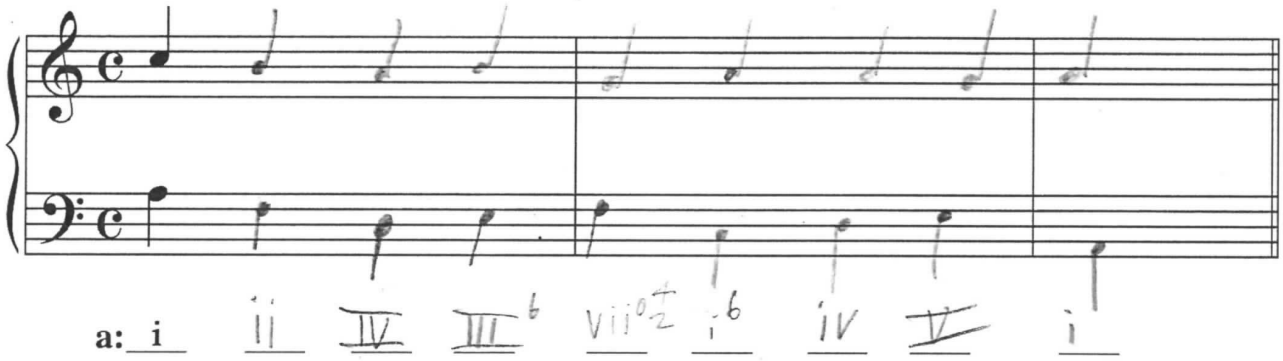

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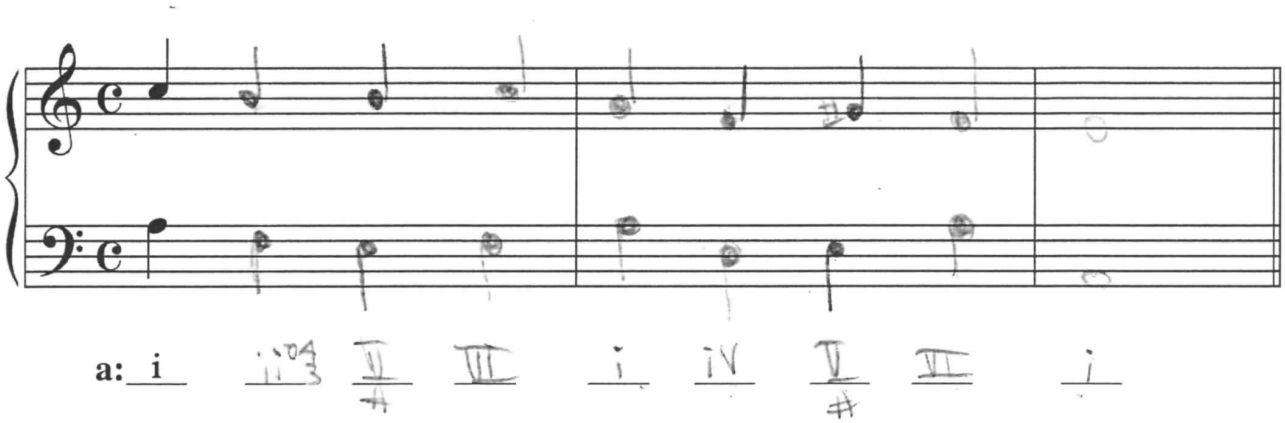
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AP® MUSIC THEORY
2015 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 3

Overview

This question assessed students' ability to:

- hear a chord progression in four parts in a minor key;
- notate the soprano and bass lines of the progression;
- hear and notate the leading tone in a minor key;
- provide the correct Roman numeral analysis of the chords;
- hear, notate, and analyze an authentic cadence;
- hear and notate triads in inversions; and
- hear and notate falling intervals of a third, fourth, and fifth in the bass line.

Sample: 3A
Score: 21

This represents a very good response. Seven of the soprano pitches and all eight of the bass pitches are notated correctly; 15 points were awarded. The Roman numeral analysis for chords two, three, six, seven, eight, and nine is correct in both Roman numerals and Arabic figures; 6 points were awarded. (Soprano: 7; Bass: 8; Roman numerals: 6; Total = 21)

Sample: 3B
Score: 14

This represents a fair response. Six of the soprano pitches are notated correctly; 6 points were awarded. Four of the bass pitches are notated correctly and earned 4 points. The Roman numeral analysis for chords six, seven, eight, and nine are correct in both Roman numerals and Arabic figures and were awarded 4 points. (Soprano: 6; Bass: 4; Roman numerals: 4; Total = 14)

Sample: 3C
Score: 3

This represents a poor response. One of the soprano pitches and one of the bass pitches are notated correctly; 2 points were awarded. The Roman numeral analysis for chord nine is correct and earned 1 point. (Soprano: 1; Bass: 1; Roman numerals: 1; Total = 3)

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